



Press Release

## Elīna Garanča Sizzles in [Habanera](#)

**Unleashes her inner Gypsy in a torrid collection of arias with the RAI Symphony Orchestra conducted by Karel Mark Chichon**

**Released October 26<sup>th</sup> in time for Carmen performances at the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall appearance with Alagna**

*“A Triumph. What sets Garanča apart is the unteachable ability to send shivers down the spine.”*Gramophone in Editor’s Choice review of *Habanera* October 2010

On **October 26<sup>th</sup>**, Deutsche Grammophon releases **Elīna Garanča’s *Habanera***. On this album, Garanča’s supple, seductive mezzo is aflame with the neon hues and rhythmic dash of Romany in excerpts from beguiling Gypsy roles from opera, operetta and song. With gorgeous pieces eliciting every gift Garanča boasts as a musician, *Habanera’s* instrumental accompaniments – whether RAI’s full orchestra, small ensemble or guitar – add to the sultry atmosphere. Conductor **Karel Mark Chichon** contributes taut yet elastic leadership that enhances the charm and variety of Elīna **Garanča’s** selections.

On this album, the dialects derived from Gypsy musical language include Bizet’s *Carmen*, Bernstein’s *Candide*, Lehar’s *Zigeunerliebe* and little-known gems like Obradors’ *El vito* making for a musically enlightening and delightful program.

Every generation has its “must see” *Carmen*. In 2010, the list of definitive gypsy seductresses – glittering with names like Baltsa, Bumbry, Farrar, and Stevens – was enriched by the addition of Musical America’s 2010 Vocalist of the Year and *Opera News* cover artist Elīna Garanča. After her triumphant success as *Carmen* in Riga, London, and Munich, Elīna Garanča became “the most convincing *Carmen* in a long time” (*New York Magazine*) at the Metropolitan Opera where she made her role debut in January 2010 in

a stunning new production by Richard Eyre (to be released on [Deutsche Grammophon DVD](#) on September 21<sup>st</sup>). Garanča [returns to the Met](#) for nine more performances in the role on **November 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 27, 30** and **December 4**. Additionally, Elīna Garanča will appear with her co-star in the Carmen DVD, Roberto Alagna, at [Carnegie Hall on October 25](#) in a concert performance of Massenet's *La Navarraise* with the Opera Orchestra of New York.

“For me Carmen is certainly a free-spirited person who lives from day to day,” says Garanča of the role. “As an audience member, you should experience every kind of feeling for her. You should love her, hate her, feel sorry for her, laugh with her, and feel that you want to embrace her like a little child and say, ‘It’s going to be alright tomorrow.’” This album includes three signature arias from Bizet’s opera, including the rarely-heard early version of the famous Habanera in addition to the famous one. “It’s absolutely gorgeous,” she says. “I thought it would be interesting to have the opportunity to hear both habaneras, which are so completely different. It would be fascinating, even a little shocking, to have a production with the first one. “

Summing up the selections in this program, and the range of Gypsy-inspired songs and arias from Spain, Austria, Ireland and America, Garanča says, “Gypsies never know where the borders are, and I hope that people will realize it’s also true for composers and singers. I’m deeply convinced that you don’t have to grow up in a certain country or with a certain musical repertoire to have the temperament and understanding to do this kind of music justice.”

For excerpts, videos and more about *Habanera*, please visit: [www.deutschegrammophon.com/garanca-habanera](http://www.deutschegrammophon.com/garanca-habanera). For more on Elīna Garanča visit [www.elinagaranca.com/en](http://www.elinagaranca.com/en).